

Civic Engagement

January, 2008
Volume 3, Issue 3

Utah State Office of Education
Life Skills, Academic Service Learning



The Servant-Leader

"The servant-leader is servant first... It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. He or she is sharply different from the person who is leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions. For such it will be a later choice to serve – after leadership is established. The leader-first and the servant-first are two extreme types. Between them there are shadings and blends that are part of the infinite variety of human nature.

The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant-first to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and difficult to administer, is: do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society; will they benefit, or, at least, will they not be further deprived?"

– Robert K. Greenleaf in Servant as Leader

We live in an era of concern for self. As the 2008 political campaign races on, we hear more and more "I" messages from candidates. It is an interesting exercise to read a political speech and count the number of times the speaker refers to himself. There is a natural instinct in man to feed the ego, and seek glory and fame.

While working in the Weber School District as a technology specialist, I had many occasions to work with a gentleman named Ron Hamblen, who worked as an elementary school curriculum specialist. Ron had the ability to easily communicate a genuine, caring nature in everything he did. He clearly knew that people were more important than programs. When he greeted you there was warmth in his smile and a sparkle in his eye that made you feel like you had made his day. He was always the last to leave a meeting room, picking up after everyone and restoring order. If there was a door to be opened for others, Ron held it, and was unconcerned if he was the last in line.

Everyone loved Ron. His name wasn't displayed in lights anywhere. He wasn't concerned whether he got the credit for a program that he had put together. He was more interested in whether the program achieved its goals and if it served the needs of those who it was designed for. I always remember walking into Ron's office and seeing a slogan prominently displayed on his file cabinet that read "Will Kids Benefit?" Ron took his retirement from education when his wife's health required some additional care. He later got a part time job at a funeral home greeting folks who came to pay their respects to the deceased. I'm sure his warmth was a great comfort to those he greeted.

The programs Ron worked hard on always ran without a hitch. He had others helping and focused the limelight on them and the great work they were doing. Even though Ron's name and presence were not easy to be seen, it was clear that they were successful because of his selfless efforts. The times I remember when Ron was in front of a group, which wasn't very often, were the times when he was expressing gratitude and praising the work of others. Mostly I remember Ron working hard behind the scenes to insure that the needs of others were taken care of.

To me this man was an inspirational leader. Though the time I worked with him was relatively brief, the fond memories linger to this day and I expect will for many years to come. He truly lost himself in the service of others

Would that more of the leaders in our nation, state, and community were like Ron! There is such a desperate need for leaders who really understand that they are public servants. We are reminded often that we need to be concerned with the "common good". Such a concern implies this kind of service. May we impress today's youth with our own examples of service that they will observe through our selfless actions. Robert Greenleaf was right.

– Alan Griffin

Contents

The Servant Leader	1
ING Unsung Heroes	2
Judicial Branch Lessons	2
Life Skills Achievement	2
Eileen Quintana	3
Souper Bowl of Caring	4
Hitachi Foundation Award	4
Best Buy Scholarships	4
Stop Hunger Scholarships	5
American Youth Ambassador	5
Campaign for the Campaign	6
Great Web Sites	6

What we have
done for
ourselves alone
dies with us.
What we have
done for others
and the world
remains and
is immortal.
– Albert Pine

ING Unsung Heroes Award

Deadline: April 30, 2008

The ING Unsung Heroes program has helped more than a thousand K-12 educators and their schools fund innovative classroom projects through awards totaling more than \$2.8 million. Do you or does someone you know have a creative, unique educational program that is helping students reach new heights? Or is there a program you'd like to implement, if only you had the proper funding?

All K-12 education professionals, whether or not they are clients of ING, are eligible. Specifically, these individuals must be:

- o Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the United States
- o Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with effective projects that improve student learning

All awards must be used to further the projects within the school or school system. Each of the 100 finalists will receive an award of \$2,000. Of the 100 finalists, three will be selected for additional financial awards. First place will receive \$25,000; second place will receive \$10,000; and the third place winner will receive \$5,000.

RFP Link:

<http://www.ing-usa.com/us/stellent2/groups/dc/documents/companylobinformation/001143.pdf>

Judicial Branch Lessons

The American Judicature Society has developed two lesson plans on the judicial branch for high-school seniors. To see a description of the lessons, go to www.ajs.org/hsc. To read the lesson plans, simply join; it's free. One lesson is on the U. S. Supreme Court, with students researching and role playing the justices, their clerks, and attorneys on both sides of a high-school drug-testing case. An overview of the history of the Court is also included. The second lesson explores how a murder case moves through a local court system. Again, students role play witnesses, the defendant, prosecuting and defense attorneys, police detectives, CSI team members, the trial judge, jurors, and other key actors.

Lecture portions of the lessons cover relevant due process provisions of the Constitution. One teacher who used the second lesson wrote: "I will teach the lesson again because the students loved it and it was extremely beneficial in teaching some constitutional and procedural law."

Judge for a Day

Applications are now available for high school students to participate in the annual "Judge for a Day" program from Utah Judicial Outreach.

Be sure to check out the flyer

(<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/pdf/Judge%20for%20a%20Day%20Flyer-2008.pdf>) and application form

(<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/pdf/Submission%20Form.pdf>).

The Life Skills Achievement Award

The emphasis of Life Skills is to educate the whole child. The seven domains, (1) Thinking and Reasoning, (2) Social and Civic Responsibility, (3) Character, (4) Aesthetics, (5) Communication, (6) Systems Thinking, and (7) Employability describe the attributes of a well educated person. We revere and honor teachers who help students progress in the domains and become competent and reach their potentials. To this end, the State Office, with support from the PTA, Girl Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of South Salt Lake and Learning for Life, seeks to honor teachers and administrators who provide exemplary leadership in these fundamental areas.

Selected nominees will receive a certificate, Life Skills lapel pin, Life Skills video, Life Skills Activity Guide and a basket of treats and gifts from supporting organizations. Presentation of the awards will be made at the location of the recipients, among their peers and students. Nominations are currently being sought. Administrators, teachers, community organizations and even parents may nominate a deserving educator by filling out an application on-line at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/lifeskills/pdf/awardform.pdf>

Documentation regarding the award recipients will be posted on the Life Skills website at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/lifeskills/index.htm>

There is no deadline for submission, as these awards will be made throughout the year. We encourage nominations for educators from all Utah districts and schools!



J. Lynn Jones, Eileen Quintana, Alan Griffin, Superintendent Chris Sorenson, Dr. Harold "Chuck" Foster, and Eileen's students celebrate her Life Skills Achievement Award

Eileen Quintana becomes First Recipient of Life Skills Achievement Award

The Grant School in Nebo District hosted an award ceremony for Eileen Quintana on January 15, 2008. Eileen works as Title VII American Indian program coordinator and has been instrumental in improving graduation rates among Indian students during her nine years in this position.

The Indian program operates Tuesday and Thursdays at the old Grant school in Springville after regular school classes have been dismissed and in June during the optional summer program. Quintana brings in specialists to teach youngsters from preschool to age 18 a wide range of subjects, including Navajo, English, math, history and other subjects from an Indian's perspective. The goal is to help them graduate and function in both worlds. Many go on to college. Most students are Navajo, but a smattering of Paiutes, Shoshonis, Goshutes, Cheyenne River Sioux, Utes and Chippewas also attend. Title VII, an American Indian grant program, dates to the 19th century and is one of the last remaining Indian treaty rights.

The American Indian program also gives students opportunities to perform American Indian traditional dances at major events such as the 2002 Olympics and national conventions.

The graduation rates for students in Eileen's programs have gone from 37 to 97 percent due to her dedication and hard work. Her students regularly receive college scholarships due to their bi-lingual thinking and reasoning training. At the same time they serve the community with performances and sharing of their native culture. These students have high moral values and contribute in academic areas as well as visual art, dance, and music. They easily find employment due to their diverse training and focus on people skills.

It is difficult to describe the dedication and passion with which Eileen does her job. She works countless hours, visits hundreds of classrooms and homes, and is a very effective advocate for the students in her program.

The Souper Bowl of Caring!

What is it?

- A National Youth-Led Movement with Local Impact
- A Simple, 4-step Service Project
- An opportunity to connect the study of hunger and poverty to multiple areas of the curriculum

It's Easy!

1. **Register.** Go to www.souperbowl.org/schools and sign up. You'll receive a FREE Resource Kit that includes an educational DVD, a step-by-step manual, posters and more!
2. **Learn & Collect.** During the week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday (**January 28 – February 1, 2008**) incorporate the study of hunger and poverty into some area of the curriculum. Then organize a simple service project and collection of money, canned goods or other items to benefit a nonprofit organization in your community that serves those in need.
3. **Report.** At the end of the collection, groups report their totals online. Reporting will ensure that their collection is counted as part of the national total.
4. **Donate.** Finally, groups donate 100% of the collection to a nonprofit organization of choice that provides direct services to their neighbors in need.

Visit us online at www.souperbowl.org/schools and register today!

Sheree Muse, Director of School Relations
Souper Bowl of Caring
302 Berkshire Dr.
Columbia, SC 29223
Phone 803-788-3746
www.souperbowl.org

Hitachi Foundation Opens Nomination Period for Youth Community Service Awards

Deadline: April 1, 2008

The Hitachi Foundation presents the Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community each year to ten high school seniors from around the United States on the basis of their community service activities.

Activities must foster longer-term community change and be focused in socially and/or economically isolated communities. The award is accompanied by a gift of

\$5,000, dispensed over two years. Recipients may use the award at their discretion. The award is not a scholarship.

High school seniors from the United States and U.S. territories are eligible to be nominated for the award. Award selection is based on a number of factors, including a student's commitment to and impact in a given community; leadership; and potential for longer-term sustainable community change. Selection is not based on grade-point averages, SAT scores, or school club memberships.

Students must be nominated by someone else for the award. The foundation accepts nominations annually from people directly familiar with the nominee's social contribution such as community leaders, service providers, teachers, school principals, or members of the clergy. Self-nominations and nominations from family members (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles) are automatically disqualified.

Complete nomination information is available at the Hitachi Foundation Web site.

RFP link:

<http://www.hitachifoundation.org/yoshiyama/>

Best Buy Scholarship Program

Deadline: February 15, 2008

The 2007 Best Buy Scholarship Program will award scholarships to students based on their outstanding commitment to and involvement in community service, along with a solid academic performance. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: high school seniors currently enrolled in an accredited U.S. school who are in line to graduate and have plans to enter a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocation technical school in the U.S. by fall 2007.

RFP link:

<http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/scholarships.asp>



STOP Hunger Scholarships to Recognize Students for Community Service

Deadline: February 29, 2008

The [Sodexo Foundation](#) seeks nominations to recognize students in the fight against hunger in America. The STOP Hunger Scholarship recognizes and rewards students who have made a significant impact in the fight against hunger and its root causes in the United States.

Students will be selected from among nominees according to the following criteria: they must be enrolled in an education institution (kindergarten through college) in the United States; be citizens or permanent residents of the United States; have demonstrated ongoing commitment to their community by performing volunteer services impacting hunger in the United States within at least the last twelve months; and be helping non-family members through their volunteer activities.

Up to five national scholarship recipients will each receive a \$3,000 scholarship as well as a \$3,000 grant made in their name to the hunger-related charity of their choice in their local community. Up to twenty regional recipients, designated as STOP Hunger Honorees, will each receive a \$1,000 grant made in their name to the hunger-related charity of their choice in their local community.

Applicants must obtain a nomination statement as part of the application process. The nomination statement must be completed by an adult (age 21 or older). Visit the RFP link for complete program information and application procedures: <http://www.helpstophunger.org/scholarships/index.asp>

NATIONWIDE SEARCH BEGINS FOR 30 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS FOR THE AMERICAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

WASHINGTON – (January 15, 2008) – High school students between the ages of 15 and 18 are invited to apply for The American Young Ambassadors Program, Ltd. (AYAL), a global leadership program that recognizes the significant accomplishments academically, athletically or through public service efforts of U.S. high school students. The youth selected for this program will represent the United States as Young Ambassadors-at-large at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. The deadline to apply is March 3, 2008.

"The American Young Ambassadors Program is an unprecedented global leadership initiative that shows the world that young people can be leaders today, not in some distant tomorrow," says Steve Culbertson, president and CEO of Youth Service America. "By combining the dynamics of leadership, service and learning, the Young Ambassadors put forth to the world this country's greatest asset – our youth," he adds.

The Young Ambassadors will spend 14 days in Beijing, China during the 2008 Summer Olympics. While at the Beijing Olympics, the Young Ambassadors will be volunteering at various venues; hosting a youth summit; and hosting several leadership receptions including an International Sports Leadership Reception with world-accomplished athletes and a World Leaders Reception with heads of state and leaders of corporations. Additionally, Young Ambassadors will host an Olympic pin-trading event, which will be a less formal forum for international youth interaction. Youth Ambassadors will receive training in film production from the New York Film Academy in order to help Youth Ambassadors collectively produce a documentary of their experience.

The American youth selected for the Young Ambassadors Program will be presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award to wear throughout the games as an indication that their work is acknowledged by the President of the United States of America. This Olympic forum is an invaluable multi-cultural learning experience for these students. For the American Young Ambassador Program application, please visit: www.YSA.org/awards. For information about the program: www.americanyoungambassadors.com.

This is a program of the American Young Ambassadors Program, Ltd. (AYAL) with support from ArcaMax Publishing, Corporation for National and Community Service, the New York Film Academy, USA Freedom Corps, and Youth Service America.



Patti Harrington, Ed. D.
State Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Alan Griffin
Life Skills, Academic Service
Learning Specialist
Utah State Office of Education
250 E. 500 S.
Salt Lake City, UT
84114-4200

Phone:
(801) 538-7761

Fax:
(555) 538-7769

E-mail:
alan.griffin@schools.utah.gov



Campaign for the Campaign

The election of 2008 is well on the way. This year promises to be an interesting and exciting one for political activity and civic involvement. As the election nears, teachers and students will be involved at various levels in discussions and activities to help them become well informed citizens. The State Office of Education, in cooperation with the Utah Council for the Social Studies, has created a web page:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/civics/campaign>

designed to assist educators and pupils as they seek for reliable information about candidates and issues. We especially invite students to study the information here and the associated links, and then become involved in the national Mock Election

It is extremely important to increase student awareness of the biggest “teachable moment” of 2008, the November election. The purpose of civic and social studies education in schools is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. The local, state, and national campaigns of 2008 are fantastic opportunities for students to develop this ability.

Great Web Sites

U. S. Election Campaign Information from Tennessee Technological University -
<http://www.tntech.edu/history/elec.html>

Public Agenda – helping Americans understand critical issues
<http://publicagenda.org/index.cfm>

The Living Room Candidate – Presidential Campaign Commercials 1952-2004
<http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php>

USOE Websites:

Character Ed – http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/char_ed/default.htm

Civics – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/index.htm>

Service Learning – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/servicelearning/index.htm>

Life Skills – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/lifeskills/index.htm>